


To: Rao, Kate[Rao.kate@epa.gov]
From: Albright, David
Sent: Wed 2/11/2015 2:27:57 PM
Subject: Re: Inquiry on Sespe Oil Field issues - Responses to Questions Directed to EPA

Thanks Kate. I think the first Q is fine, but I would leave off the second one related to the Sespe Oil field.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.



David - I added the Qs and As that was sent to Greg Haas to the Comm Strategy. I will also clean it up based on the edits to the webpage since the language you edited came from the Comm Strategy.

Kate

Kate Rao
Drinking Water Protection Section (WTR 3-2)
USEPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: (415) 972-3533 / fax: (415) 947-3549

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 4:03 PM
To: Rao, Kate
Subject: FW: Inquiry on Sespe Oil Field issues - Responses to Questions Directed to EPA

Good Qs & As to add to our Comms Plan!

Suzanne Skadowski

Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | San Francisco
D: 415-972-3165| C: 415-265-2863| E: skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov

From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Haas, Greg
Cc: Albright, David; Montgomery, Michael; Skadowski, Suzanne; Keener, Bill
Subject: Inquiry on Sespe Oil Field issues - Responses to Questions Directed to EPA

Greg –

In follow up to your inquiry yesterday regarding the Sespe Oil Field issues, I had reached out to my Water Division colleagues and David Albright who is the manager of our Groundwater Office has reviewed the links you provided for the two articles about the recently release draft EIR from DOGGR concerning the Sespe Oil Fields and has provided me with responses to your two questions to share with you. Please let me know if the responses provided completely answer your questions, and whether or not you would like for me to set up a call with David to discuss further. Please let me know.

1) I was wondering how this relates to EPA's actions regarding the state allowing the improper injection from oil wells into drinkable aquifers? In short, the draft EIR pertains to stimulation techniques (hydraulic fracturing and acidization) for oil/gas production wells. EPA does not regulate these stimulation techniques in production wells, except in the case where diesel fuels are used to hydraulically fracture production wells. By contrast, the issue of improper injection into non-exempt aquifers pertains to injection (not production) wells. EPA regulates injection wells under the Safe Drinking Water Act's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program, and the State of CA has primacy for the UIC program that relates to oil and gas injection (Class II).

2) Are these fields included in the EPA actions? Based on lists of roughly 2,500 injection wells that the State believes are potentially injecting into non-exempt aquifers, there are 5 injection wells listed for the Sespe Oil Field. These 5 injection wells are noted as disposal wells and 3 are listed as active with the other 2 listed as inactive. The 3 active disposal wells in the Sespe Oil Field are shown to be completed/injecting into aquifers in the 3,000 ppm – 10,000 ppm TDS range, which means continued injection would require approval of an aquifer exemption.

Regards,

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

75 Hawthorne St. (OPA-3)

San Francisco, CA 94105

Ph: 415.947.4256

From: Haas, Greg [<mailto:greg.haas@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 1:59 PM

To: Maier, Brent

Subject: Sespe Oil Field issues

Brent,

The links below are two articles about the recently release draft EIR from DOGGR concerning the Sespe Oil Fields. I was wondering how this relates to EPA's actions regarding the state allowing the improper injection from oil wells into drinkable aquifers? Are these fields included in the EPA actions?

Greg

805 546-8348

<http://www.kcet.org/news/redefine/rewire/natural-gas/report-fracking-imperils-southern-california-residents-wildlife.html>

<http://lpfw.org/draft-report-reveals-significant-environmental-impacts-of-fracking-in-ventura-countys-sespe-oil-field/>